

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Akihiko HIRANO et al.  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned  
Continuation of USSN 09/986,597  
Filed: January 22, 2004  
For: **DECODING APPARATUS AND DECODING METHOD**  
Group: 2651 (expected)  
Examiner: Rocio Colon (expected)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**January 27, 2004**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter thereto the following Preliminary  
Amendment.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.

NOV 29 2004



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DONALD R. ANTONELLI  
WILLIAM I. SOLOMON  
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PAUL J. BRONISRAWSKI  
HUNG H. BUI  
ALFRED A. STADNICK  
FREDERICK D. BALEY

\*ADMITTED OTHER THAN VIA

LAW OFFICES  
**ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP**  
SUITE 1800  
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22209

TELEPHONE (703) 312-6600  
FACSIMILE (703) 312-6666  
htb@antonelli.com

OF COUNSEL  
DAVID T. TERRY  
HAROLD A. WILLIAMS  
RALPH T. WEBB  
STERLING W. CHANDLER  
PATENT AGENT  
LARRY N. ANAGNOS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Attention: **Examiner Rocio Colon** (expected)  
Art Unit: **2651** (expected)

January 27, 2004

Re: **DECODING APPARATUS AND DECODING METHOD**  
U.S. Application No.: Not yet assigned  
Continuation Application of Serial No. 09/986,597  
Attorney Docket No.: **500.38183CC2**

**SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS**

Sir:  
Applicants hereby submit the attached **Preliminary Amendment** (13 pgs) and  
Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 in the above-identified application.

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION:**

I hereby certify that the attached **Preliminary Amendment** (13 pgs) and Credit Card  
Payment Form PTO-2038 is being **formally filed** in the USPTO via Group 2651;  
Examiner Rocio Colon; Facsimile No. 703-872-9308 on January 27, 2004.

*Hung H. Bui*  
Hung H. Bui

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